

# Montana Drought Advisory Committee

**USDA NASS Montana Field  
Office**

**John Hilton  
Deputy Director**

August 14, 2008

# August 1 Production Forecast



# Montana's August 2008 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '08	% Chg from Prev Forecast	% Chg from Prev Season
<b>Winter:</b>				
Harvested	Mil Ac	2.45	NC	+11.9
Yield	Bu/Ac	39.0	+5.4	+2.6
Production	Mil Bu	95.6	+5.4	+14.8
<b>Other Spring:</b>				
Harvested	Mil Ac	2.45	NC	+2.1
Yield	Bu/Ac	21.0	-8.7	-8.7
Production	Mil Bu	51.5	-8.7	-6.8
<b>Durum:</b>				
Harvested	Thou Ac	605	NC	+27.4
Yield	Bu/Ac	21.0	NC	-12.5
Production	Mil Bu	12.7	NC	+11.4
<b>All Wheat:</b>				
Production	Mil Bu	159.7	NC	+6.6

# Montana's August 2008 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '06	% Chg from Prev Forecast	% Chg from 2007
<b>Barley</b>				
Harvested	Thou Ac	780	NC	+8.3
Yield	Bu/Ac	47	+9.3	+6.8
Production	Mil Bu	36.7	+9.3	+15.7

# Montana's August 2008 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '08	% Chg from 2007
<b>All Hay</b>			
Harvested	(000) Ac	2,650	+3.9
Yield	Tons	1.8	-10.0
Production	(000)Tons	4,700	-8.6
<b>Alfalfa Hay</b>			
Harvested	(000) Ac	1,650	NC
Yield	Tons	2.0	-13.0
Production	(000)Tons	3,300	-13.0
<b>Other Hay</b>			
Harvested	(000) Ac	1,000	+11.1
Yield	Tons	1.4	-6.7
Production	(000)Tons	1,400	+3.7

# Winter Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



## Harvested acreage

- 2.45 million acres to be harvested for grain
- 260,000 more harvested acres than last year

## Production

- 95.6 million bu
- 12.3 million bu more than last year
- Up 4.9 million bu from July forecast

# Winter Wheat August Production Forecast



## Yield

- 2008 yield forecast 39.0 bu per acre
  - 2 bu higher than July 1, 2008 forecast
- 2007 yield 38.0 bu per acre
  - 2008 forecast 1 bu higher than last year

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# Winter Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



On August 1 indications point to a good winter wheat crop

Final winter wheat estimates

Small grains summary released September 30

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# Spring Planted Crops

**Harvest of spring planted  
crops behind last year**



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# Spring Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



## Planted acreage

- 2.50 million acres planted
- 50,000 more acres than last year

## Acres for harvest

- 2.45 million acres for harvest
- Up 50,000 acres from last year

# Spring Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



## Production

- Forecast at 51.5 million bu
- Down 4.9 million bu from July 1 forecast
- Down 7% from last year

## Yield

- 21.0 bu per ac, down 2 bu from July 1
- 2 bu less than last year

# Durum Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



## Production

- 12.7 million bu, unchanged from July 1
- Up 11% from last year

## Yield

- 21.0 bu per ac, unchanged from July 1
- 3 bu ac less than last year

# Barley August 1 Production Forecast



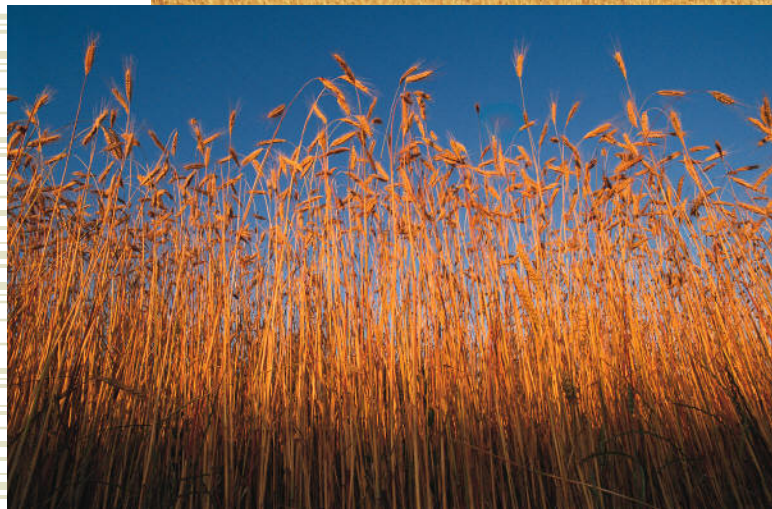
## Production

- 36.7 million bu, up 3.1 million bu from July 1 forecast
- Compared with 31.7 million bu last year

## Yield

- 47.0 bu per ac, up 4 bu from July 1 forecast
- 3 bu more than last year

# Crop Weather for the Week Ending August 10, 2008

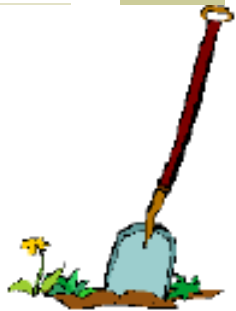




# Topsoil Moisture Declined from Last Month

August 10, 2008	This week	Last Month	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	77%	64%	86%	83%
Adequate	23%	35%	13%	16%
Surplus	0%	1%	1%	1%

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## Subsoil Moisture Declined from Last Month

August 10, 2008	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	75%	59%	80%	82%
Adequate	25%	40%	20%	18%
Surplus	0%	1%	0%	0%

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# Crop Weather Report

## Week Ending August 10, 2008

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- ◆ Winter wheat harvest well behind last year and the five-year average
- ◆ Harvest of small grains and pulse crops behind last year, due to delayed growing season



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# Crop Weather Report

## Week Ending August 10, 2008

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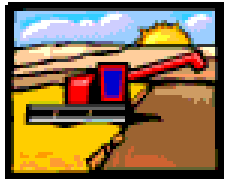
- ◆ Spring grains turning quickly due to dry conditions
- ◆ Second cutting of hay underway, well behind last year and the five-year average

# Winter Wheat Progress Behind Last Year and Five-Year Average



August 10, 2008	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
<b>Winter Wheat</b> Harvested	45%	89%	78%

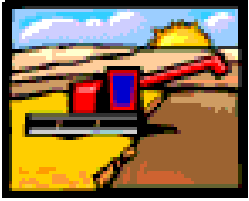
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## Spring Wheat Crop Condition ahead of Last year & in line with 5-Yr Average

August 10, 2008	Very poor- Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	26%	40%	29%	5%
Last month	14%	37%	42%	7%
Last year	36%	29%	30%	5%
5-yr avg	29%	31%	33%	7%

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# Spring Wheat Harvest Behind Last Year and Five-Yr. Average

August 10, 2008	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
<b>Spring wheat</b> Harvested	11%	41%	28%

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# Barley Harvest Behind Last Year and 5-Yr. Average



August 10, 2008	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
<b>Barley</b> Harvested	13%	54%	31%

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## Barley Crop Condition Better than Last Year & Five-Yr Average

	Very poor-Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
August 10, 2008				
This week	10%	39%	36%	15%
Last month	5%	30%	56%	9%
Last year	38%	21%	33%	8%
5-yr avg	24%	27%	38%	11%

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# Alfalfa Hay Harvest Behind Last Year & 5-Yr Average

August 10, 2008	This week	Last year	5-yr avg.
<b>Alfalfa hay</b> Second cutting	32%	68%	50%
<b>Other hay</b> Second cutting	9%	47%	35%

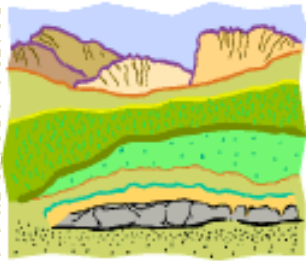
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# Livestock Grazing



- ◆ Range and pasture conditions better than 5-year average
- ◆ Ranchers are beginning to move livestock from summer ranges

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## Range & Pasture Conditions Better than 5-Year Avg.

August 10, 2008	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr avg
Very poor-poor	27%	15%	23%	37%
Fair	34%	34%	36%	32%
Good	25%	36%	35%	26%
Excellent	14%	15%	6%	5%

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- ◆ Daniels County

“Durum that was early seeded and avoided the heat is doing well. Later seeded crops had early heat stress, but recent rains have helped somewhat.

- ◆ Liberty County

“Harvest is in full swing.”

- ◆ Chouteau County

“Started harvesting winter wheat. The spring crops are still a little green yet, but hope to maybe be able to harvest some about August 15th..”

# To Sum It Up

- ◆ Winter Wheat yields forecast at 39 bu, 1 bu higher than last year, but 2.6 bu better than the 10 year average
- ◆ Spring seeded crops have been hit hard by lack of rain and late growing season



# To Sum It Up



- ◆ Range conditions continue to decline
- ◆ Need more precipitation to improve topsoil and subsoil moisture

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